

## Message Text

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43

ORIGIN SNM-02

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 010425

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - WOLFF PRESS RELEASE

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LA PAZ: FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE

1. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS THE TEXT OF A PRESS  
RELEASE MADE ON JANUARY 15 BY THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN  
WOLFF:

BEGIN QUOTE: MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA SENDS PERSONAL  
DRUG COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO FORD VIA WOLFF AS CHAIRMAN  
OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS SUBCOM.--DETAILS  
TUES., JAN. 20 WASHINGTON, D.C.--MEXICAN PRESIDENT LUIS  
ECHEVERRIA IS SENDING VIA U.S. REP. LESTER WOLFF (D-N.Y.)  
A PROPOSAL TO PRESIDENT FORD THAT EACH NATION JOIN IN AN  
ACTION ORIENTED, PERMANENT WORKING COMMISSION TO MONITOR  
AND COORDINATE ALL ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS BETWEEN THE TWO  
NATIONS.

WOLFF, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CON-  
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TROL SUBCOMMITTEE, THIS WEEK SENT A TELEGRAM TO SECRETARY

KISSINGER ASKING THE SECRETARY, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL, TO SET UP A MEETING WITH FORD ON THE ECHEVERRIA PLAN.

WOLFF AND A MEMBER OF HIS SUBCOMMITTEE, U.S. REP. BEN GILMAN (R-N.Y.) MET WITH ECHEVERRIA, THE FULL MEXICAN CABINET, AND TOP U.S. OFFICIALS IN MEXICO CITY FOR SIX HOURS SATURDAY, JAN. 10, DURING WHICH DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED COMMISSION AND ECHEVERRIA'S MESSAGE TO FORD WERE HAMMERED OUT.

THE CONGRESSMEN HAVE CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON FOR 9:30 A.M. TUESDAY, JAN. 20, TO RELEASE DETAILS OF THE ECHEVERRIA PROPOSAL, AND TO DISCUSS THEIR FACT-FINDING MISSION TO MEXICO, COSTA RICA, PANAMA AND COLOMBIA.

IN A JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER SATURDAY NIGHT'S MARATHON MEETING, WOLFF AND GILMAN TOLD REPORTERS "BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM, THE CREATION OF THIS JOINT COMMISSION MUST BE IMPLEMENTED WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVE SUPPORT IN FINDING A PERMANENT SOLUTION TO THIS DREADFUL PROBLEM."

WOLFF, AND REPS. PETER RODINO (D-N.J.) MORGAN MURPHY (D-ILL.) AND CHARLES RANGEL (D-N.Y.) MET WITH FORD, KISSINGER AND OTHER TOP ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ON DEC. 22 TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S HANDLING OF THE NATION'S INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS.

FORD PLEDGED THE CONGRESSMEN HE WOULD DO "WHATEVER IT TAKES", INCLUDING TOUGH DIPLOMATIC MEASURES, TO STEM THE FLOW OF ILLEGAL HEROIN AND OTHER DRUGS INTO THE U.S., AND LATER THAT WEEK ORDERED KISSINGER TO DISCUSS THE MEXICAN SITUATION WITH MEXICAN AUTHORITIES.

IN RECENT HEARINGS BEFORE HIS SUBCOMMITTEE, WOLFF HAS RECEIVED EVIDENCE FROM THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND UNCLASSIFIED

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NEW YORK CITY NARCOTICS EXPERTS INDICATING THAT AS MUCH AS 65 PERCENT OF THE HEROIN NOW FLOWING INTO THE U.S. COMES FROM MEXICO -- THE SO-CALLED "MEXICAN BROWN." THE BULK OF THE REMAINING 35 PERCENT COMES FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE NATIONS OF BURMA, THAILAND AND LAOS, WITH SOME HEROIN SUSPECTED OF COMING FROM OLD STOCKPILES OF TURKISH SUPPLIES LAID IN PRIOR TO THE TURKS' DECISION TO RESUME OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION UNDER UN SUPERVISION LAST YEAR. END

QUOTE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Subject:** NARCOTICS - WOLFF PRESS RELEASE -  
**TAGS:** SNAR, MX, US, (WOLFF, LESTER)  
**To:** MEXICO  
**Type:** TE  
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